



## Press Release

### Postal users' expectations for better policing of the market raised by the European Commission's decision on Deutsche Post

Brussels, March 20, 2001 - The FFPI considers that today's European Commission decision in Deutsche Post's abuse of dominant position case is an important step towards establishing a fair playing field in the postal sector in Europe.

In its long-awaited decision (the case was brought up by the US courier company UPS in 1994), the European Commission imposes a fine on Deutsche Post amounting to 24 millions Euro. More importantly, the Commission requests the German postal operator to create a clear separation between its monopoly and commercial activities through the creation of a new, separate, company.

*"We welcome this decision as we believe that it is an important step towards establishing the fair playing field that has been requested for a long time by postal users",* said Philippe Bodson, President of the FFPI.

In its decision, the Commission recognises that Deutsche Post has wasted financial resources and that consumers from the reserved area had to pay for this. *"Transparency is key to prevent such abuses"* said P.Bodson. *"All market distortions have a negative impact on customers of postal services, this is why they need to be stopped"*.

FFPI members call on the Commission to continue to police the postal market on the basis of today's decision. *"What we have here is a landmark decision which will provide some important guidelines on what is and what is not allowed in the postal sector",* stated P.Bodson. *"The FFPI believes that Germany is not the only Member State where similar fundamental issues have been overlooked and are now waiting to be corrected. What we need in the future are swifter decisions from the Commission or we risk to see more and more breaches of EC postal and competition rules"*.

Considering the lack of progress towards liberalisation and the rapidly changing competitive environment in the postal sector, it going to work well only if it is well regulated and well policed. *"FFPI members consider that the improvement of postal services through case-by-case decisions as the one taken by the Commission today is neither sufficient, nor a good solution. We need a final date for full liberalisation of the postal sector in order to create the necessary impetus to improve quality, choice and price of postal services",* concluded Bodson.

The Free and Fair Post Initiative (FFPI) is a unique European initiative that brings together users and competitors of the public postal operators who strongly believe in the benefit of a liberalised and more competitive postal market. Through its membership, the FFPI currently represents more than 7.1 million companies. The FFPI's key objectives are to secure a final date for the full liberalisation of postal services that should be in 2007 at the latest and a fair playing field in the postal sector to prevent public postal monopolies from turning into private ones.

For more information, visit the FFPI Web site [www.freefairpost.com](http://www.freefairpost.com) or contact Axel Rindborg  
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